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"CONSERVATIVES'" PROGRESSIVE ACTIONS

The Japan Protestant Conference (*Nippon Purotesutanto Seisho Shinkō Dōmei*) a 1,500-member conservative organization, Rev. Reiji Oyama, chairman, met May 30 and issued a statement to Prime Minister Sato against the Yasukuni Shrine nationalization bill.

Similarly, the 5,300-member Reformed Church in Japan (*Nippon Kaikakuha Kyokai*), Rev. Kazuo Matsuda, moderator, issued a statement against the bill, which it sent to Sato May 31. Along with warnings against violating the freedom of belief, both statements emphasized the ill effect that passage of the bill would have upon the sentiment of Asian nations which were victims of Japanese military expeditions.

In the meantime, in Hiroshima, the annual meeting of the Japan Alliance Church (3,000 members), May 9-11, discussed thoroughly the possibility of sending cables both to President Nixon and to the president of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in the U.S.A. to stop bombing North Vietnam. The motion came as a reaction to the recent request of the church's president to the member churches to pray "for a solution to the critical Vietnam issue." Two pastors and a layman who signed the motion asked: 1) What position does the Japan Alliance Church take toward the Vietnam War? 2) What direction do the leaders of the church consider the solution of the war should take? 3) What relation has the Japan Alliance Church with the Vietnam Evangelical Church (Alliance group) and with the Alliance churches of other nations? They requested also that the anti-war position of the church be clarified, that it act accordingly to establish a sound information-exchange relationship with the Vietnam Evangelical Church and start sending relief materials to refugees in Vietnam.

The delegates, confronted for the first time at a church meeting with such a "political" issue, spent much time in discussion of it and reacted in various ways. But the motion was finally voted down, receiving only four supporting votes.

FLASH!!

--Both Yasukuni Shrine Bill and the Immigration Bill submitted by LDP died without being acted on as Diet ended extended session, June 16.

The 8th Annual NCC Urban-Industrial Mission Conference was held at Tozanso May 31-June 2. The 73 participants came from throughout Japan and from Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong as well.

The program was planned by the NCC Committee for Urban-Industrial Mission (Prof. Hiroshi Ushikubo, chairman) to get churches to grapple with urban-industrial issues in the context of mission and then work toward developing a methodology for dealing with them. Although the planned program was followed to a certain degree, there was a strong feeling that the church needs to reassess its stance in regard to urban-industrial problems. Many voices expressed the need to consider the problem of discrimination, especially that of Koreans in Japan, in the context of Japan's urban-industrial society as a whole.

The first two days were devoted mainly to lectures: Prof. Toshio Kikuchi of Chiba University on "Urban Development"; Prof. Masataka Sugi of Rikkyo University on "Industrial Society"; Prof. Takeshi Chujo of Doshisha University on "Labor Welfare."

The third day a panel composed of Prof. Toshikazu Takao of Kanto Gakuin University, Fr. Minoru Sugita, from the Koenji Catholic Church, and Prof. Toshiko Hayami of the Nippon Sei-ko-kai Central Theological Seminary discussed "Theology". Another panel, composed of Rev. Nobuaki Koyanagi, a young pastor from Osaka; Rev. Satoshi Hirata, UIM director of Kansai Seminar House; and Rev. Minoru Ishimaru, Director of the Keiyo Education and Culture Center in Chiba, discussed "Social Education."

The participants began voicing their own concerns in small group discussions on the second and third evenings, leading to a free-for-all final plenary, which failed to reach a consensus or conclusion.

The question of the church's stance on the whole issue of urban-industrial development was brought to the fore largely by Takao, in his humorous and good-natured but relentless attack on the church's failure to grapple with realities. His presentation on the "Theology" panel began with a sharp criticism of the earlier three lectures as being based on illusion rather than reality. His thesis is that Japan's remarkable industrial and economic growth since the Korean War didn't just happen but was a well-planned, efficient development with the collusion of big capitalists and politicians. Therefore, responsibility for the defects in the new industrial megalopolis lies with those who purposely carried out this policy. The church must first recognize this and the fact that the various issues such as the lack of meaningful work, treatment of suspects under arrest, the 4th Defense Budget, the planned Okinawa Trade Fair (comparable to Expo '70), treatment of Koreans, emperor worship, etc., must all be dealt with as related to this overall master plan. By not facing reality, the church is unknowingly cooperating with the establishment in its process of dehumanization. Instead, the church should be an agent in the humanizing process within history which represents God's plan of salvation. To do so, we must tackle real issues within the only reality we know.

In contrast to Takao's emphasis, Hayami questioned the meaning of "reality", stressing that Christian faith is the only *true* reality. It is this reality we must show to the movers of economic growth. The reality of Jesus Christ, rather than the humanism of Jesus, is the basis of *true* Christian faith, he said.

Takao responded that any meaningful discussion must begin not with what things should be but with what things are. He also questioned what he called the escape-technique of Christians--that is, their use of the term "true" when speaking about the "true" church, what it means to be a "true" Christian with "true" love and "true" faith.

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Principal Koichi Oshima of Joshi Gakuin High School, Tokyo, succeeds Rev. Yoshikazu Miura as chairman of the board of directors of the NCC Division of Education. The resignation of Miura, former pastor of Ichikawa Lutheran Church, who has been appointed principal of Kyushu Jogakuin effective April of this year, was accepted by the board. A graduate of Tohoku (Imperial) University, Oshima, 55, is the first layman to head the Division, which has a 65-year old history. The Japan Sunday School Association, inaugurated in 1907, became the Division of Education of the United Church of Christ in Japan (*Kyodan*) when the united church was formed.

Post-war, in 1946, the Japan Council of Christian Education was formed to carry on the work done by the SSA and eventually was incorporated into the NCC setup. The 1958 World Convention on Christian Education was a major event during this period. In 1959 it was renamed the Christian Education Department of NCC. With the 1970 restructuring, it became one of the three main divisions of the NCC. Each change in its structural relationships has meant certain changes in the content of its work as well. Now the Division concerns itself not only with church school education but covers education in a more extensive sense, including general public education, theological education, family education, etc. Oshima's experience both as general educator and as prominent church lay leader, especially in areas of social issues, will contribute much to the growth of the Division.

YOUTH AND RECONCILIATION, PEACE AND JUSTICE IN THE WORLD

"Japanese economic aggression is creating difficulties in Asian nations. The war in Vietnam is not over yet. There are many problems yet to be solved. We usually just read newspapers and do nothing toward solving the problems. We would like to find some ways we can contribute...."

This, explained Masaki Yokoyama, is the reason for the First International Youth Conference for Reconciliation, Peace and Justice in the World, to be held at Oiso Academy House Aug. 3-7. Sponsors are a group of young people who have shared the experience of living and studying abroad and who have retained their relationships through the "ICYE Reunion." (ICYE is The International Christian Youth Exchange program being conducted in nearly thirty countries across the continents.)

The conference will bring together an international group of some 100 young people. Participation is open not only to former ICYERs but also to other serious-minded young people who are looking for more than the usual camp experience and who will be conscientious about study and building good mutual understanding.

Persons desiring more information should contact Augustine Masaki Yokoyama, chairman, c/o Sophia Institute, Inc., Room 103, Ichikawa Apt. 140, Totsukamachi 2-chome, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160.

"KAMAGASAKI AND YOU/ME"

Fifteen young Christians will have an opportunity to experience as well as study "The Dual Structure of Contemporary Society" in a seminar to be held July 24-30 in the Nishinari area of Osaka City, famous as the Kamagasaki day laborers' section.

In addition to joining the labor force, participants will live together in *Furusato no Ie*, hear lectures on Kamagasaki life and contemporary Christian issues and have joint worship.

The program is sponsored by a Kamagasaki Fellowship of Protestants and Catholics cooperating in social welfare and evangelism. Leaders are Fr. Heinrich and Rev. Aimei Kanai.

The seminar is open to young Christians or seekers over the age of 19 who can do manual labor and who can attend the seminar from beginning to end. It is anticipated that expenses will be met by the income from the work done. The application fee of ¥500 should be sent with a request for application to *Furusato no Ie*, 32-7 Higashi Tamachi, Nishinari-ku, Osaka City. (Phone 06-631-1628)

JCAN June 16 * SUMMER WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED

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Christian Audio-Visual Workshop

July 26-29 at Atami, Dankaiso

Theme: "Proclaiming the Word"

This is the 23rd Annual AVACO Workshop which features theological lay training along with 23 separate workshop groups on various aspects of using audio-visuals for all ages in Christian education as well as such topics as child guidance, group dynamics and recreation. All groups are under the guidance of Christian leaders highly competent in their respective field.

Lectures on the theme, "Proclaiming the Word" will be given by Prof. Kazoh Kitamori of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary and Dr. Takaaki Aikawa, chairman of the Board of *Baptesuto Domei*.

Other sessions will feature Mathew Ogawa, Director of AVACO, Rev. John Nakajima, NCC general secretary, Rev. Kiyoshi Ii, pastor of Kyodan Reinanzaka Church, and Rev. Jo Yamada, secretary-general of Nippon Sei-ko-kai.

Registration fee: ¥2,000 Room and Board ¥9,000

Applications are welcomed from high school age up. For applications contact AVACO, 1-551 Totsukamachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160.

Christian Music Workshop

August 21-25 at Nishinomiya

(Kobe Women's College and
Seiwa College)

Theme: "The Future of Church Music"

Leadership in all aspects of music in the church with training offered for all levels of competence is the ongoing purpose of this annual workshop, sponsored by the Kyodan Board of Publication's Hymnal Committee.

The theme for the 43rd Workshop, "The Future of Church Music" will be the focus of the morning lectures by Prof. Masao Takenaka of Doshisha University and Prof. Jisaburo Matsuki of Kansai Gakuin University. The bulk of the program is in the nature of a music camp with private and group lessons in organ, singing, conducting, music theory, etc. from beginning to advanced levels. The highlight will be the closing music worship at Osaka Higashi Umeda Church on Fri., Aug. 25, from 6:30 p.m. It will be open to the public.

Registration for the entire workshop is ¥2,000. Courses vary from ¥3,500 for pipe organ to ¥1,000 for the worship study seminar. Participation on a daily basis is possible for a ¥500 registration fee per day.

Lodging and meals will cost ¥5,400 plus ¥850 for Sun. night, Aug. 20. Deadline for registration is July 31. Secure blanks from Kyodan Board of Publications, Hymnal Committee, 1-551-41 Totsukamachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160.

1972 CHRISTMAS ART COMPETITION/EXHIBITION

Continuing the Annual Lit-Lit exhibition of Christmas art from outside the United States, the 1972 Intermedia "Christian Exhibition of Overseas Artists" has been announced, and information is being circulated in Japan by AVACO.

The purpose as stated is to encourage artists to interpret the meaning of Christmas in terms of their won culture and styles; to make the work of overseas artists known in New York, "the center of the US communications industry;" and to discover works of art for use in Intermedia/Lit-Lit Christmas cards.

Entries must be received in New York no later than Sept. 29, of this year. Details as to media, size, shipping instructions, etc. are available in English and Japanese from AVACO.

MORE ???? THAN BUT NOT WITHOUT !!!!! (continued from p. 2) * JCAN June 16
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Subsequently, Sugita corrected himself when he referred to "true" neighborly love, but he went on to emphasize that as Christians, we must first become involved in the suffering of society around us. This is prerequisite to our mission of calling others to be Christian. In his quiet manner, the Father seemed to suggest that any separation of the church into *fukuin-ha* (gospel faction) and *shakai-ha* (social faction) is destructive to both. His comments on suffering were echoed by many in the plenary session. One person remarked that he, along with the others, were merely on-lookers. "What is called for now is for us to all become fellow sufferers."

This remark seemed to touch off the heated discussion that followed on the discrimination of Koreans in Japan. Leaders of the Korean churches in Japan, visiting church leaders from Korea, and leaders of the NCC in Japan participated, with a strong emotional appeal being made by Koreans residing in Japan for Japanese churches and leaders to join them in their struggle.

A Korean pastor in Japan criticized the conference for its lack of action... the scholars were all hypocrites and the panelists were looking on from the clouds ...the Korean problem was mentioned in last year's conference but nothing had been done...now the same things are being said all over again....

The strongest attack on the church in Japan was made by a young leader of the Korean YMCA in Japan. He accused the church in Japan of only playing around with issues and never tackling them or never joining the struggles alongside Korean workers, etc.

Ishimaru seemed to summarize the soul-searching of Japanese participants when he confessed that the conservatism of the church in Japan must be faced. "Many of us are disillusioned. The church is ingrown. It does not see itself as part of society. Without this consciousness (of being part of society), the Japanese church cannot adequately tackle such problems as minority issues, labor problems, pollution and all the many other pressing issues we are faced with today."

"KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE"

by Harriet A. Johnson

"Know what you believe in this day of crisis of confession," challenged Dr. Hans Ruedi Weber, WCC secretary for Bible Studies, meeting with approximately 18 laymen, professors and pastors at Oiso Academy House June 5-6. To this end, Weber directed the group in the experience of new methods for Bible study involving the active participation of members. The text was Paul's Letter to the Galatians. (Similar meeting was also held at Kyoto Seminar House June 4-5.)

Weber pressed also for renewed efforts to bridge the gap between the Biblical world and the national-cultural setting in which the participating Christian believes and acts. Just as New Testament writers re-interpreted the Old Testament in the light of the Christ event, to meet the needs of their fellowmen, so the Christian today must hear and re-interpret the Word in the context of confrontation with modern man.

Weber emphasized the richness of the various Christian traditions and Biblical interpretations, which cannot be discarded without great loss. Yet he warned against trying to compress the dynamic Word into any one pattern or viewpoint (creation history, salvation history, incarnation, etc.), thus missing the new, free speaking of the Holy Spirit in the present.

Q "We need less theologizing and philosophizing but more autobiographizing of
 U the Bible. The Holy Spirit liberates us again and again to reinterpret the
 O traditions of the past in living terms of the here and now."

T "It may well be that the day is past for the sermon as the main means of
 E proclaiming the gospel. For example, the theologian Edward Schweitzer no
 S longer accepts invitations to preach but welcomes chances to lead the con-
 gregation in worshipful Bible study."

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HEADLINE-MAKING EVENTS

. . . compiled by Ichiji Yokota

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THE 68TH SESSION OF THE NATIONAL DIET WAS ADJOURNED JUNE 16 after a long 171-day deliberation. The most important bills which the LDP tried to pass, even by way of extending the session--those of the raise in fares of the Japan National Railways and of the restructure of Health Insurance--died due to the strong opposition of the four opposition parties. The last two days saw the presentation of the bill expressing lack of confidence in the cabinet in the House of the Representatives, and a motion to reprimand Prime Minister Sato in the House of the Councillors. PRIME MINISTER SATO MADE PUBLIC HIS DESIRE TO RESIGN at the general meeting of LDP members of the Diet on June 17. An extraordinary LDP general assembly to elect the new president of the party (Prime minister) will be held on July 5 at Hibiya Kokaido in Tokyo.

PRIME MINISTER SATO CRITICIZED THE PRESS SEVERELY THE SAME day (17th) at the pre-arranged press conference. Before the conference, he told the press: "I dislike newspapers.... I only want to talk to the people through TV". Banging the desk he demanded that the press reporters leave. Sato talked to the TV camera in an empty room. The editors of nine newspapers later publicized a letter of protest to Sato for his lack of understanding of the freedom of expression. The Press Club of the Cabinet and the Association of Directors on Political Affairs of various presses also made strong protests.

SATO SUCCEEDED HAYATO IKEDA AS PRIME MINISTER IN 1965. Seven years and eight months is the longest period in Japan's history for the same man to occupy the seat of prime minister. The merits and demerits of his term of office have been controversial. However most agree that his was the last post-war government. The policy he inherited from Ikeda centered on high economic growth. That goal was achieved by Japan's attaining the second place in the Free World in productivity. Another major event was the reversion of Okinawa. However, on the other hand, in the field of international relations, Sato's policy was too one-sided in emphasizing Japan's relationship with the USA to the neglect of its relationship with China; and in the field of internal policy, the side effects of high economic growth - pollution, inflation, the rising cost of transportation, housing, land property, etc. - resulted in an extreme unbalance in the life of the people, who are in great anxiety.

THE SUCCESSOR TO SATO AS THE PRESIDENT OF LDP WILL BE DECIDED on July 5 from among the following five persons: Takeo Fukuda, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Kakuei Tanaka, Minister of Trade; Masayoshi Ohira, former Foreign Minister; Takeo Miki, former Foreign Minister; and Yasuhiro Nakasone, former Minister of Transportation. In the final analysis, Fukuda and Tanaka will likely be the last contenders.

KENJI FUKUNAGA WAS DISPATCHED TO ISRAEL as a special ambassador to ask forgiveness for the recent Tel Aviv airport tragedy in which 3 Japanese identified with Palestinian Liberation Front Forces created mayhem, in a wild display of shooting and murder.